

speaks of taking over the independent province of Taiwan and continues to enslave the people of Tibet. Mr. Speaker, it remains imperative that we maintain our military presence and preparedness to instill confidence in our many democratic allies, while providing a beacon for those who suffer under the oppression occurring every day. We simply cannot ignore these threats from the outside world. Mr. Speaker, I quote then Vice-President Richard Nixon upon the dedication of the Iwo Jima memorial in 1954:

This statue symbolizes the hopes and dreams of America and the real purposes of our foreign policy. We realize that to retain freedom for ourselves, we must be concerned when people in other parts of the world may lose theirs.

Mr. Speaker, this rings true today as it did then. May we never forget the sacrifices of these men on behalf of this maxim. Indeed, there is no greater representation, here or in the world, of the advance of democracy over imperialism, than the statue in Arlington Cemetery which depicts victorious ambassadors of freedom raising the American flag over this outpost of imperialism. Mr. Speaker, may we continue to learn from their sacrifice and contain those bent on denying freedom and destroying democracy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, [Mr. MURTHA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MURTHA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

NEVER FORGET THE SACRIFICES OF THE MEN WHO FOUGHT ON IWO JIMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I first would like to pay honor to the gentleman, my colleague, SONNY MONTGOMERY. Probably no one in recent history has done more for the veterans of this country than SONNY and I want to commend him for bringing about this special order tonight.

Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago I had the honor of being a young sailor and participating in the battle of Iwo Jima. Our role was from a small escort air carrier delivering napalm bombs and rockets to the island and supporting our troops. Fifty years ago today plus four was the day we raised the flag on Mount Suribachi. One of the men that participated in that was an Indian from my state of Arizona by the name of Ira Hayes, a Marine.

Mr. Speaker, I think that too often we take these things too lightly, and I just hope that we do not forget this. May we never forget the sacrifices of all those people that participated, that paid with their lives. May that flag always wave over this country. Mr.

Speaker, we pray this will never happen again.

I would like to read a quote by a captain, a Marine, on the island at that time, to his parents. He said, "Only those who fought on Iwo will ever know how tremendous a job was done. It is now sacred ground to us because certainly many of us came so close to eternity that we will never be worldly again." Capt. William Ryan wrote this to his parents in March 1945 from Iwo Jima.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. ROBERTS].

Mr. ROBERTS. I rise to associate myself with the remarks of my colleagues and fellow Marines as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Iwo Jima. I want to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Arizona and give special thanks to Gen. SONNY MONTGOMERY. A finer friend of the military and our veterans our Nation has never seen.

My father, Wes Roberts, who was a Marine Corps major, who lied about his age at 42 to join the Corps and at age 43 was on Iwo Jima, took part in the 36-day assault on this very key island. Fifteen years later, Lieutenant PAT ROBERTS, yours truly, went back to Iwo Jima with Lieutenant General Worsham and a contingent of survivors and veterans, and we toured the island. We not only toured Mount Suribachi and the caves and the end of the island, but also the Japanese cemetery to pay homage to those brave veterans as well.

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And we were standing on top of Mount Suribachi. I will never forget this. All of the veterans of the people who were there at that particular time during the assault looked down at where we had cliffs and then Mount Suribachi and then knee-deep ashes on the beach. And the gentleman turned to me, tears streaming down his face and he said, it is a wonder that anybody ever really made it. It is a wonder anybody was really alive.

We toured the island, and we toured those caves where still the dead Japanese are there. And it was an amazing feat in terms of a military victory. Somehow, by persevering, somehow, by uncommon valor and at great cost both to Americans and Japanese, we saved lives and the end result by bringing this war to its proper conclusion.

I would like to say, as a former Marine, Semper fi, Dad. Semper fi, Marine Corps. Semper fi, America. God bless the United States Marine Corps.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. JACOBS].

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

There is an old saying, abandon all hope, ye who enter here. And Bill Mauldin, in World War II, had a cartoon where one GI said to the other, in combat, I feel like a fugitive from the

law of averages. And such an attitude is necessary when you face enemy fire. You must forget about the good life. You must forget about everything. You must consider yourself already dead.

The philosopher tells us, civilization progresses because young men die for their country and old men plant trees under which they will never sit. And Henry V, he exhorts his troops at St. Crispin's battle, in peace nothing so becomes a man as stillness and humility. But in war, imitate the action of a tiger. Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood, exchange for fair nature hard-favored rage.

To die for one's country is love than which there can be no greater.

Mr. Speaker, on February 16, 1945, the Americans initiated a pre-invasion naval bombardment lasting three days. Task Force 58, the most powerful carrier force ever assembled, struck the Japanese mainland to prevent enemy support. The Iwo Jima operation, codenamed Detachment, included 1,800 carrier-based and 7th Air Force planes; a quarter-million seamen on nearly 800 ships; and 75,000 GI's of the "V Amphibious Corps." The main assault units included the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions, and various other forces of army and navy construction battalions.

On Monday, February 19, 1945 at 9:00 a.m., the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions landed on the southeastern shore of Iwo Jima. Within 20 minutes, the marines were 250 yards inland. At that point, the Japanese opened up with all they had.

Three days later, on February 23, (50 years ago today) a 40 man patrol of the 5th Division's 2nd battalion, 28 Marines, cleared the 550 foot summit, of Mt. Suribachi. That morning, photographer Joe Rosenthal took the famous photograph of the raising of the American Flag overlooking the island. Secretary of the Navy, James V. Forrestal, a witness to the flag raising, commented that: "the raising of that flag means a Marine Corps for another 500 years."

By the time it was over in mid-summer, 22 Marines and five Navy men earned the Congressional Medal of Honor. This was the greatest number of Medal of Honor recipients for any single engagement of World War II. Half of the awards issued were posthumous, and Iwo Jima represented more than one-fourth of all Medals of Honor awarded Marines during the entire war.

Total American casualties were 28,686. The Japanese sacrificed 23,300 lives and 1,083 of them ultimately surrendered.

By the end of the war, 2,251 B-29's landed at Iwo Jima. Of that number, more than 800 made emergency landings. Without Iwo Jima, many of the 9,000 American crew men would most likely have been lost.

ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LARGENT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. EVANS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in joining my fellow colleagues and Marines in honoring the